February 19, 1992

OSHA INDOOR AIR QUALITY STANDARD: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Any indoor air quality standard ("IAQ standard") issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration should be based upon the following principles:

1. Office buildings for which construction designs are finally approved or upon which significant renovations are initiated on or after the effective date of the IAQ standard should be required to be ventilated with outdoor air at the rate specified in ASHRAE Standard 62-1989.

2. Office buildings for which construction designs were finally approved prior to the effective date of the IAQ standard should be required to be ventilated with outdoor air at the rate specified in ASHRAE Standard 62-1989 where (a) the HVAC system is capable of delivering the specified rates or (b) modifications to the HVAC system to achieve the specified rates can be accomplished at reasonable cost.

3. Where ventilation in compliance with ASHRAE Standard 62-1989 is not achievable at reasonable cost, the existing ventilation system should be required to be operated at maximum capacity to provide ventilation with outdoor air at the highest feasible rate.

4. Ventilation systems in all office buildings should be required to be equipped with air filters that comply with ASHRAE Standard 52-76 (Average Atmospheric Dust Spot

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/qljj0000

Efficiency Standard) and that clean both outdoor and recirculated indoor air.

5. Any office building not required to comply with ASHRAE Standard 62-1989 that is the subject of a significant number of employee complaints of symptoms associated with poor indoor air quality should be required to reduce indoor air contamination through any reasonable combination of ventilation, filtration, air cleaning and occupied space reallocation or redesign.

6. Ventilation systems in all office buildings should be required to be inspected on a periodic basis and kept clean and in good repair to minimize the build-up and circulation of biological or other contaminants.

7. Where renovations or repairs to office buildings are being conducted that potentially cause indoor air quality to deteriorate, potentially affected employees should be required to be notified that such renovations or repairs are taking place and informed of the steps being taken to reduce their risk of exposure to deteriorating indoor air quality.

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